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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/811,919	03/30/2004	Nobuyuki Iida	00862.100133.	3165

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NEW YORK, NY 10112

EXAMINER

EBRAHIMI DEHKORD, SAEID

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2625.

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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02/05/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/811,919

Applicant(s)

IIDA, NOBUYUKI

Examiner

Saeid Ebrahimi-dehKordy

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 19-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 19-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Shinohara
(Pub. No: US 20030137577)

Regarding claim 19 Shinohara discloses: A method of controlling of controlling an image forming apparatus (note Figs.1&2) for forming an image by transferring images one after another to a printing medium by a plurality of image forming units (note page 4, paragraphs, 0051-0052, wherein the image forming units 6Y, 6M, 6C and 6k are used to form images on the sheet 4, from the different drums used) on disposed along a transport path of the printing medium (note abstract, also note Fig.1. item 4 the paper sheet 4) and corresponding to respective ones of colors (note respective colors or CMKY, page 4, paragraphs 0051-0053) said method comprising: a step of forming an image on the printing medium by a plurality of image forming units capable of printing images on the printing medium concurrently (note again page 4, paragraphs 0051-0053 wherein an image formed along the path of the medium using forming engines 6Y, 6M, 6K and 6C) a step of assigning a first data processing unit for image data processing, which had been assigned to a first image forming unit that completed image formation on the printing medium

(note again that the image forming unit 6Y is assigned to carry the formation of the yellow image to on the said medium and same for other image forming units such as 6M, 6K, 6C, which are assigned to carryout the formation of the other color images, page 4, paragraphs 0051-0053), also note page 4, paragraphs 0055-0057) to a second image forming unit that is to form an image next (note Figs.1&2, page 4, paragraphs 0052, wherein the next image for example "C" would be assigned to the next image forming unit 6C) and output step of outputting image data generated by the first data processing unit which has been assigned to the second image forming unit, to the second image forming unit (note Fig.1&2, page 4, paragraphs 0052-0057).

Regarding claim 20 Shinohara discloses: The method according to claim 19, wherein said output step includes assigning a data transfer unit, which had been assigned to a first image forming unit that completed image formation on the printing medium, to a second image forming unit that is to form an image next (note page 2, paragraph 0029, lines 6-17).

Regarding claim 21 Shinohara discloses: The method according to claim 19, wherein said control step includes assigning a plurality of data transfer units to one image forming unit (note page 4, paragraph 0058).

Regarding claim 22 Shinohara discloses: The method according to claim 21, wherein the plurality of data transfer units transfer respective ones of image data of odd-numbered lines and image data of even-numbered lines (note page 5, paragraph 0071).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-18 are allowed.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Application/Control Number:
10/811,919
Art Unit: 2625

Page 4

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Saeid Ebrahimi-dehKordy whose telephone number is 571-272-7462. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8:00am-6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Moore can be reached on 571-272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Saeid Ebrahimi
Patent Examiner
Group Art Unit 2625
February 2, 2008

